

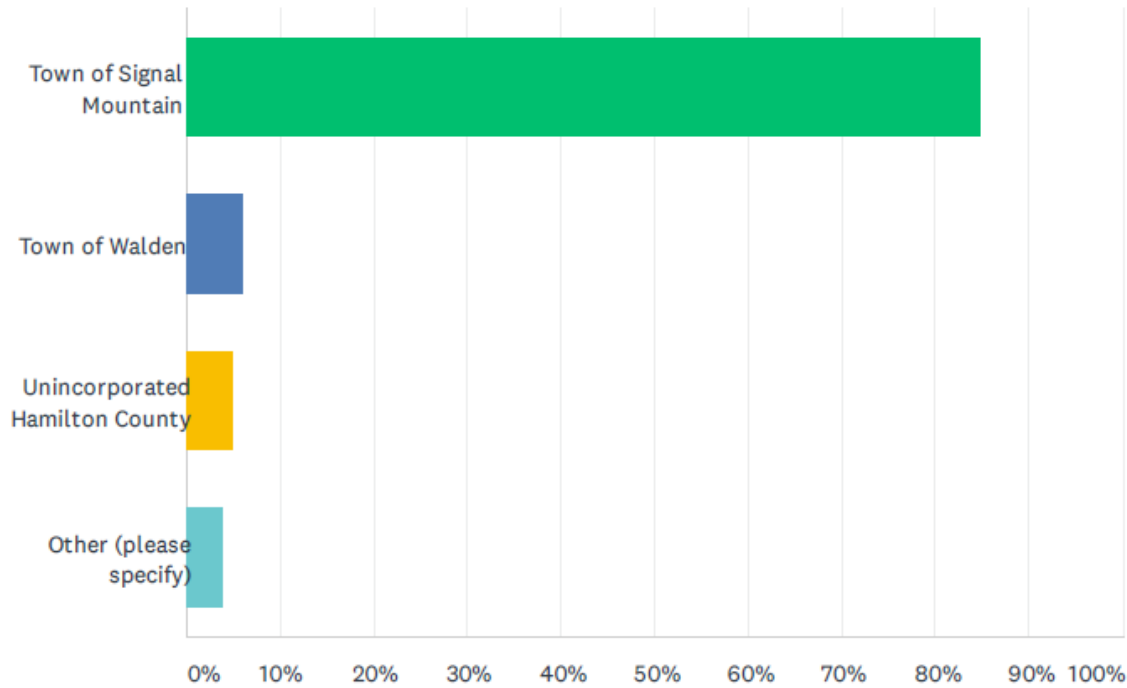
Signal Mountain Rainbow Lake Survey Results

October 2021

SETDD

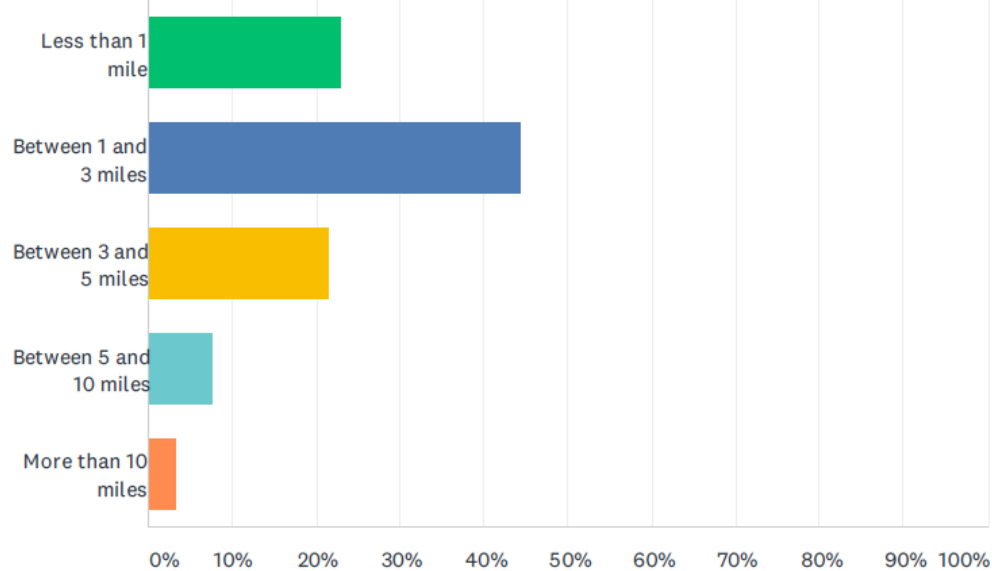
User Profiles

Where do respondents live?



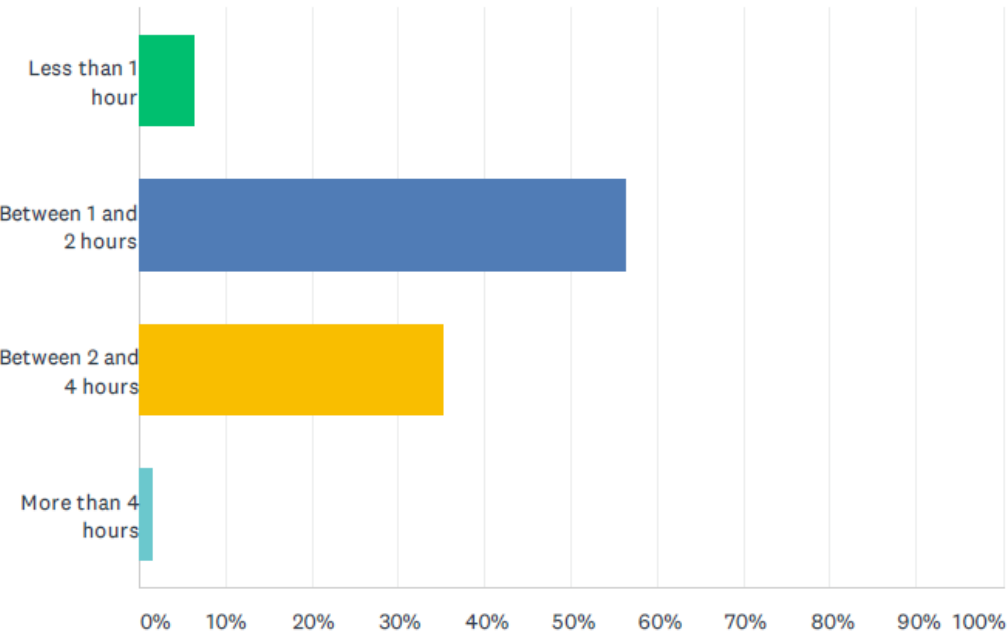
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town of Signal Mountain	84.87%	303
Town of Walden	6.16%	22
Unincorporated Hamilton County	5.04%	18
Other (please specify)	3.92%	14

How far do respondents live from an established access point to Rainbow Lake?



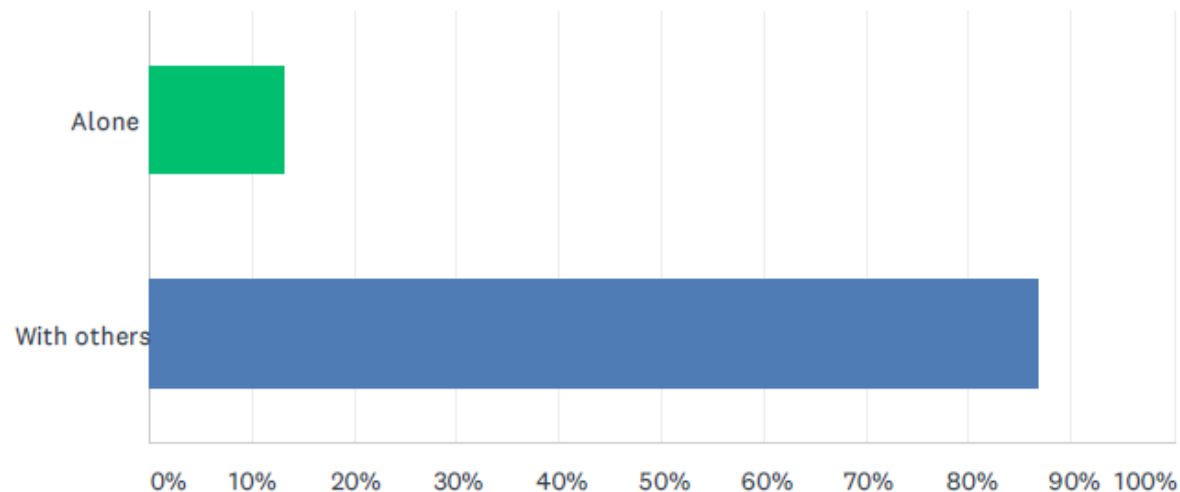
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 mile	22.97%	82
Between 1 and 3 miles	44.26%	158
Between 3 and 5 miles	21.57%	77
Between 5 and 10 miles	7.84%	28
More than 10 miles	3.36%	12
TOTAL		357

How long do respondents generally stay at Rainbow Lake?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 hour	6.44%	23
Between 1 and 2 hours	56.58%	202
Between 2 and 4 hours	35.29%	126
More than 4 hours	1.68%	6
TOTAL		357

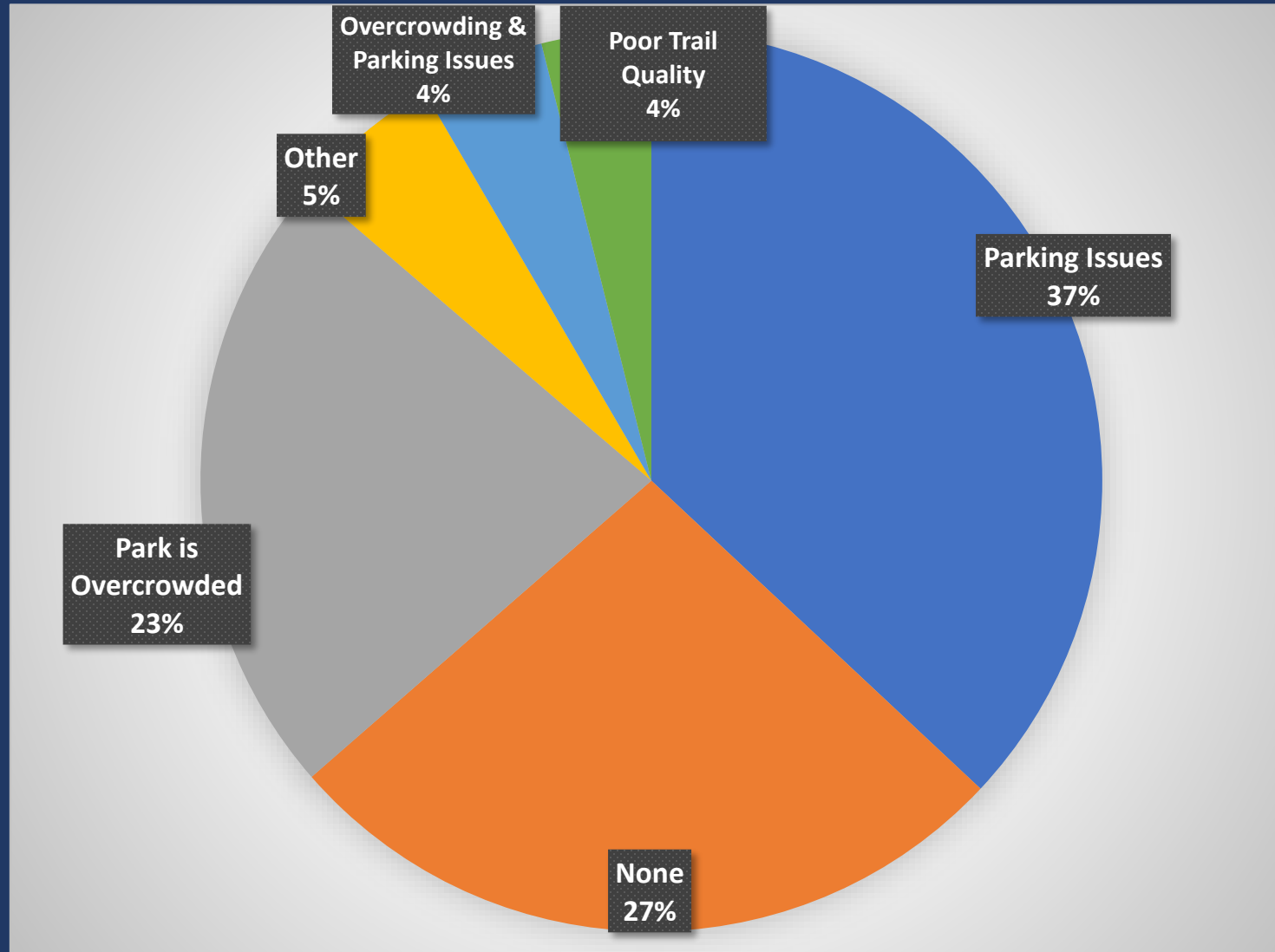
Do respondents visit Rainbow Lake alone, or with others?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Alone	13.17%	47
With others	86.83%	310
TOTAL		357

Perceived Problems of Rainbow Lake

What factors limit users from using Rainbow Lake?

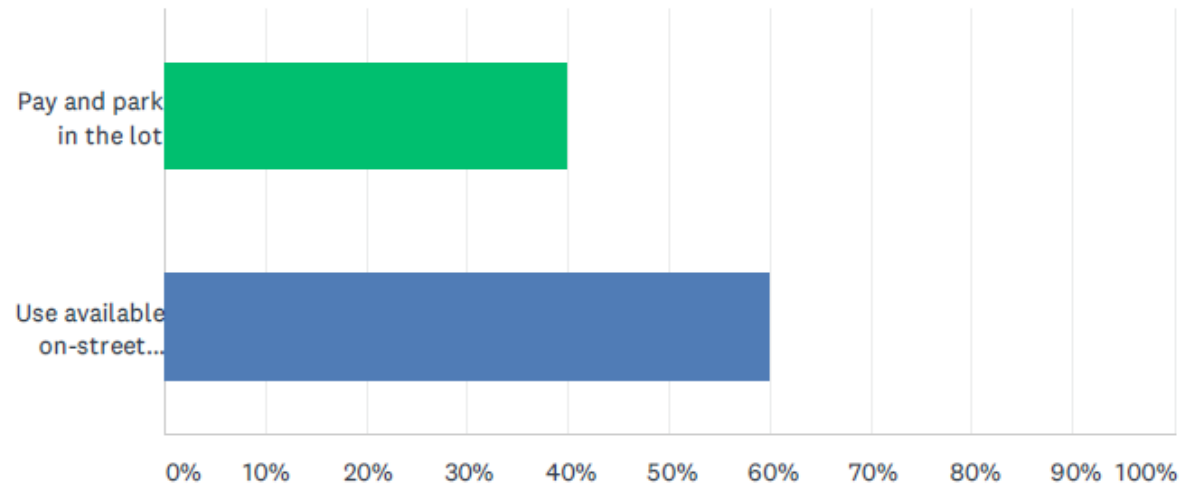


What factors limit users from using Rainbow Lake?

Most Common Themes	Percentage of Response	Quotes
Parking Issues	37%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have had to leave the park several times because there was no available parking.• It's ridiculously small and needs more parking spaces.
None	27%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekends are busy, but we know that and tend to avoid Saturdays/Sundays. Grateful to have such a beautiful resource so close to our home.• Only the weather affects our use of the trail• None because I live close. I am concerned more about the pollution in the water and would like for that to be looked into.
Park is overcrowded	23%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too many people at a time. Trail is narrow going up and down and seems to be deteriorating.• Rainbow Lake used to be for people who lived on Signal Mountain, and now it's full of out-of-town people. It's overly crowded and unfortunately go to other areas.

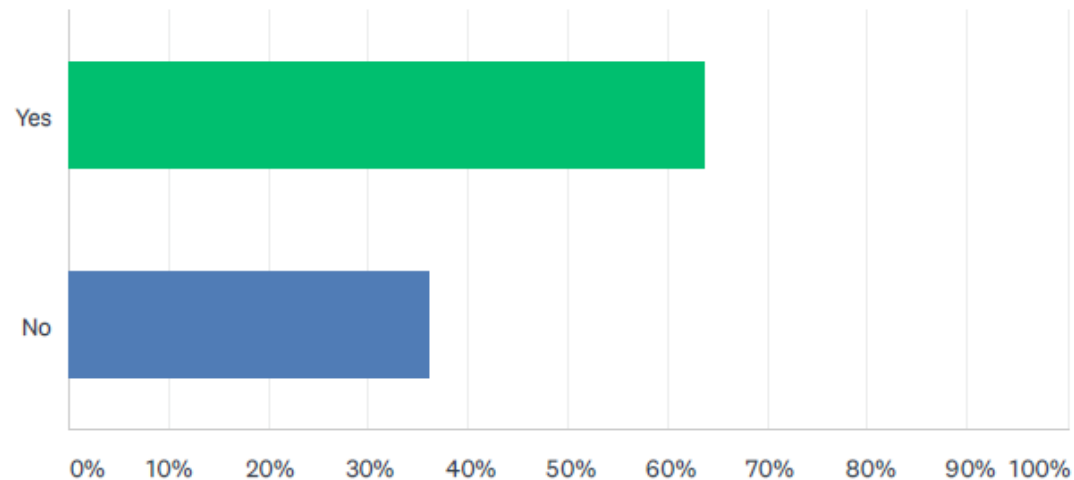
Willingness to Pay /
Participate in Solutions

If more parking was available but required payment, would you pay?



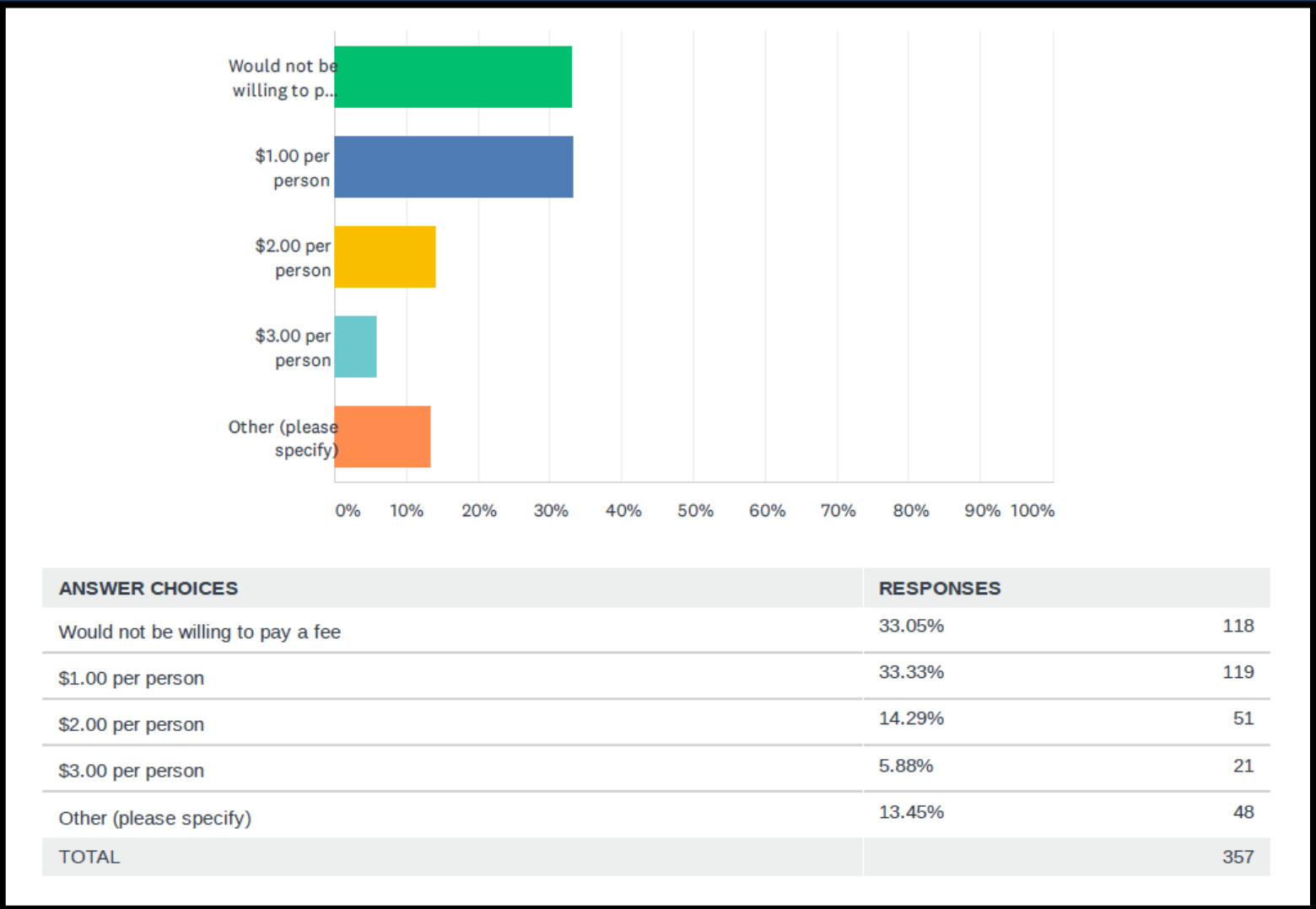
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Pay and park in the lot	40.06%	143
Use available on-street parking	59.94%	214
TOTAL		357

Would you regularly contribute to a donation box if there was one available?

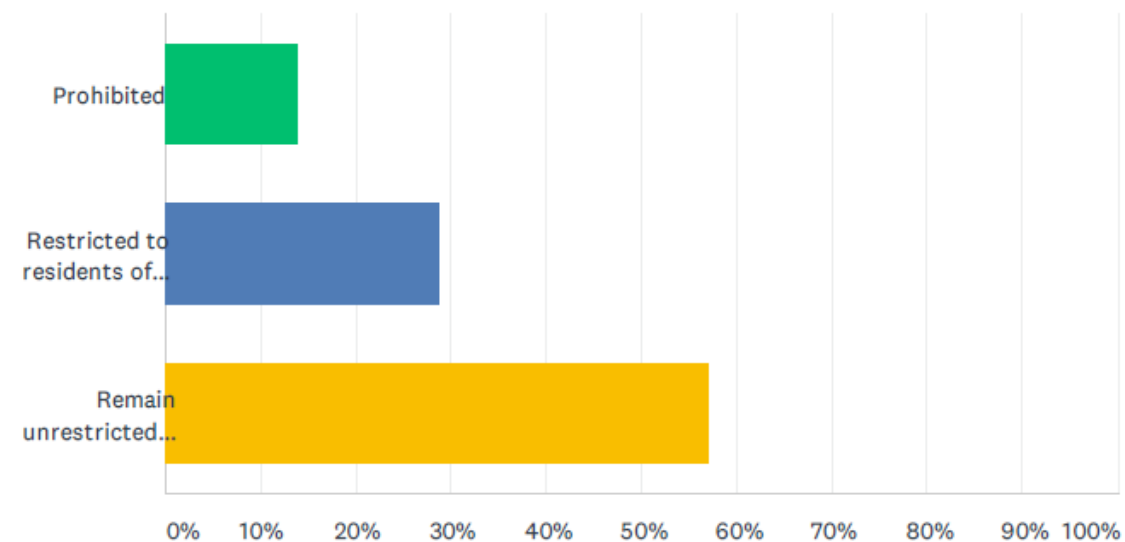


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.87%	228
No	36.13%	129
TOTAL		357

How much would be a reasonable fee as an access fee to Rainbow Lake?

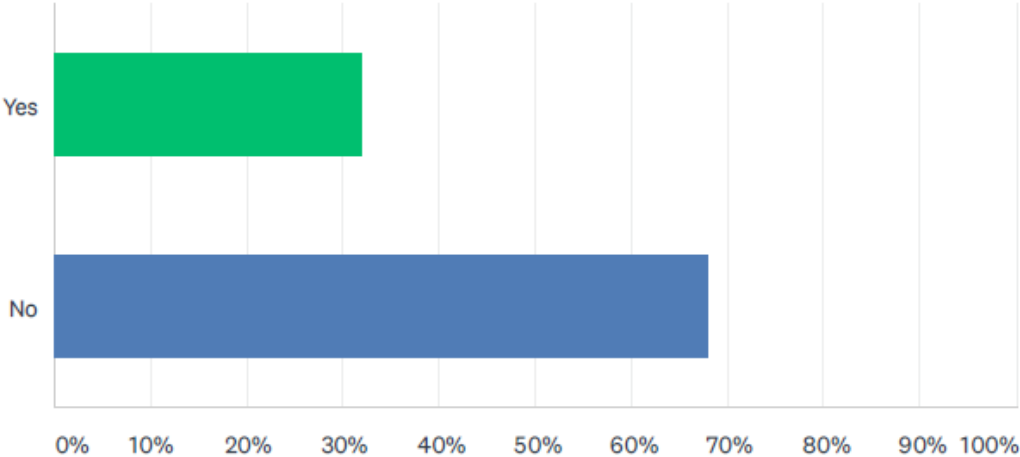


Do you feel that on-street parking in the area should be:



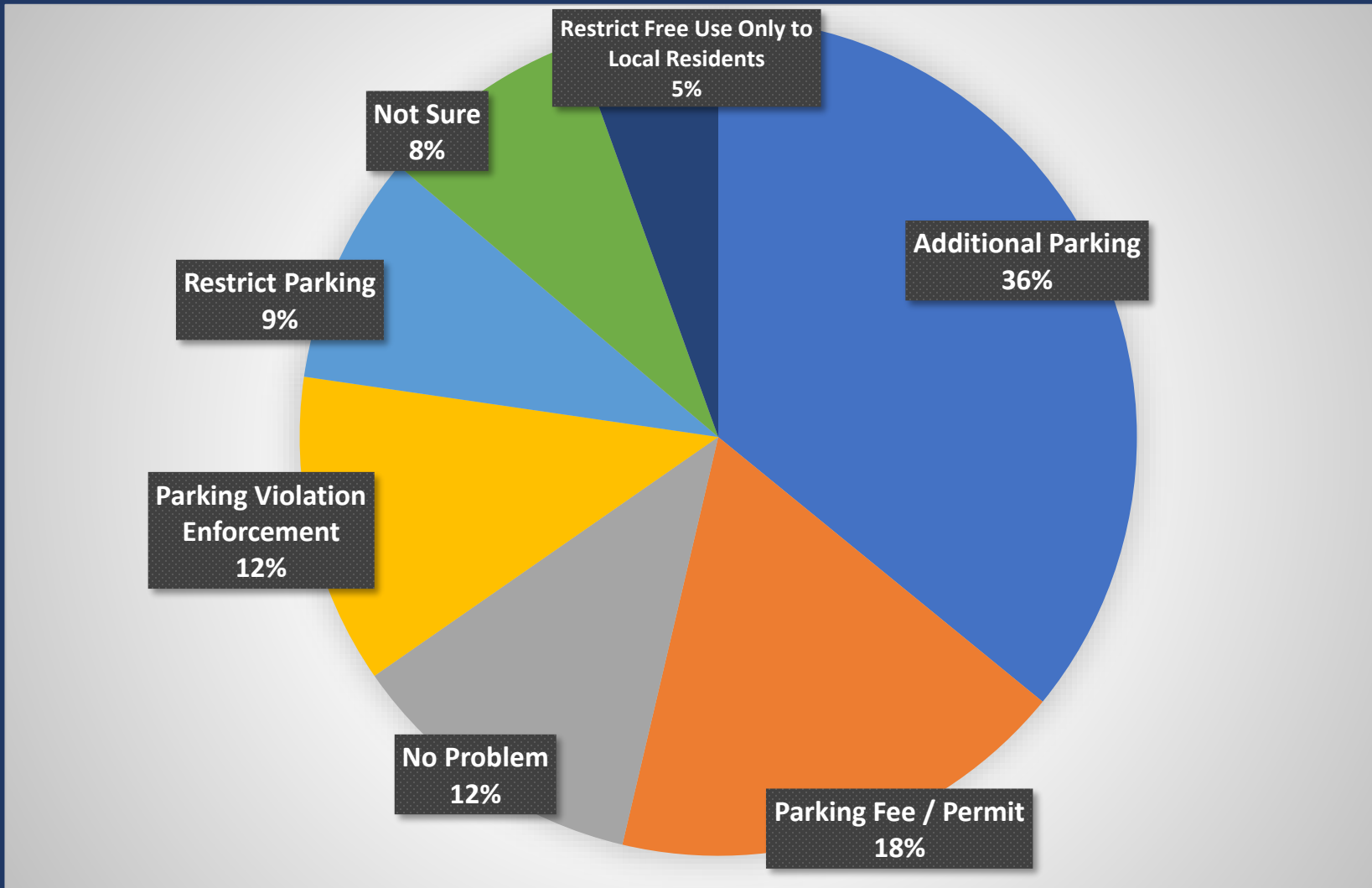
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prohibited	14.01%	50
Restricted to residents of that street only	28.85%	103
Remain unrestricted, other than general parking laws	57.14%	204
TOTAL		357

Should park use be restricted to the number of vehicles
the parking lots can accommodate?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.93%	114
No	68.07%	243
TOTAL		357

What measures would you support to improve problems associated with traffic and on-street parking?



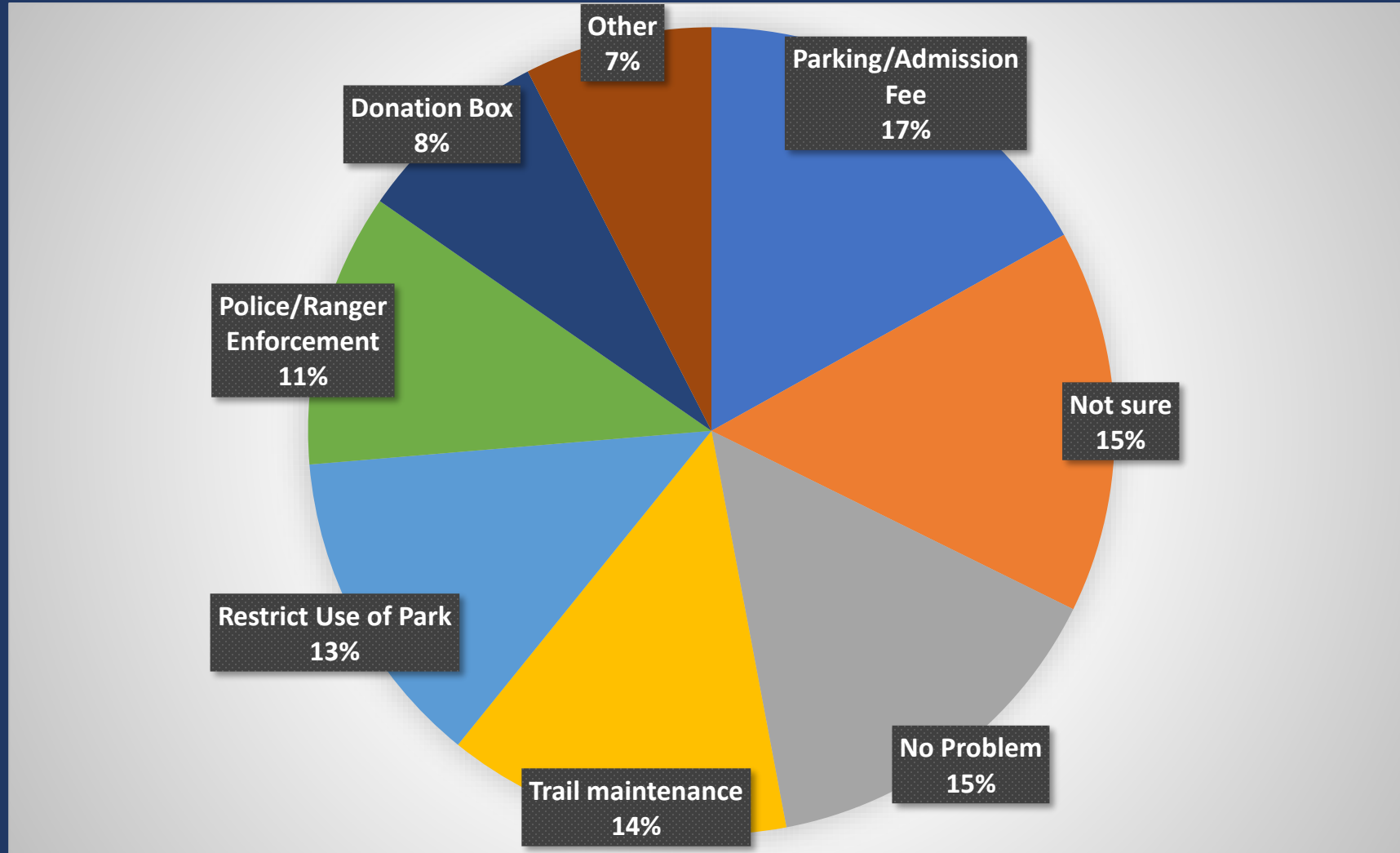
What measures would you support to improve problems associated with traffic and on-street parking?

Most Common Themes	Percentage of Response	Quotes
Additional Parking	36%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Designated and striped parking along the appropriate roadways. 2. Shared parking at churches and Alexian. 3. Public information to inform residents the road in front of their house is public right of way and residents do not have the right to limit parking along that frontage. The park is not overcrowded. There is simply a lack of parking. Additional spaces even within a short walk will solve the problem. Increase legal parking in the area. Work with Alexian for additional parking. They have a fairly large parking lot right next to Rainbow lake that is almost always empty.
Parking Fee / Permit	18%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the parking area at the trailhead. Then charge for parking to pay for the construction. Very similar to smaller toll bridges in FL. The residents and visitors pay a small fee and after a set number of years the toll is removed. Paid parking to fund improvements to parking lot and curb side parking. Include a box for a low-cost parking fee and the option for town members to buy a parking pass for a low and reasonable price so regulars don't have to pay every time.

What measures would you support to improve problems associated with traffic and on-street parking? (Continued)

Most Common Themes	Percentage of Response	Quotes
Parking Violation Enforcement	12%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher parking fines that are shown on signs, and tickets to be given with greater frequency. A larger parking lot is not desirable. Meters would be awful and would require someone to monitor or tow violators. That's not appropriate for this area. Seek police on bicycles patrolling the parking areas and issuing warnings for illegal parking Parking attendant or patrol
Restrict Parking	9%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reservation system on weekends and holidays (or any other day that would be overcrowded) for people accessing the park in a vehicle. Only open certain days of the month like Lula Lake Allow 2-hour parking constraint, perhaps?
Restrict Free Use Only to Residents	6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decals for SM Residents Vehicles, Do not allow any vehicles without decals to park on streets, give temporary guest decals to residents in RLP area for guests not hiking, but just visiting. Charge fee for nonresidents Park use for town residents only

What measures would you support to improve problems associated with sustainability and conservation of the park's natural beauty?



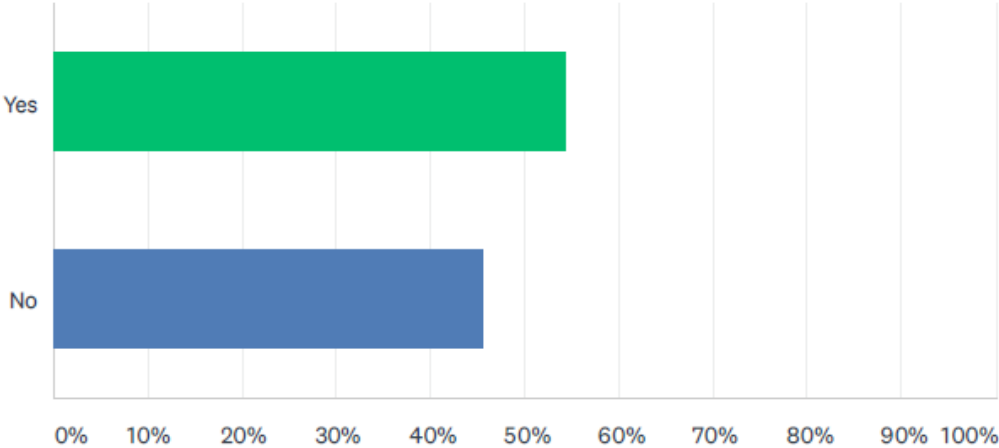
What measures would you support to improve problems associated with sustainability and conservation of the park's natural beauty?

Most Common Themes	Percentage of Response	Quotes
Parking / Admission Fee	17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservations or required park permit for nonresidents • Implement "Friend of Rainbow Lake" annual membership, and a usage fee for daily use of non-members. Investigate ways to increase volunteer participation for maintenance and cleanup. • I'd be willing to pay a small price (like \$1-\$3) to park if it means the funds would go towards maintaining the trails and possibly go toward a parking lot expansion. But it would be sad to see people turned away from enjoying the mountain and our parks. I hope that any new efforts don't result in ticketing or limiting accessibility.
No Problem	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems pretty sustainable right now, although some of the high traffic areas would probably benefit from some gravel. • Nature is nature. Please do not do any preventions or restrictions. That is too heavy handed for the Town. • I haven't seen anyone degrading the natural beauty

What measures would you support to improve problems associated with sustainability and conservation of the park's natural beauty? (Continued)

Most Common Themes	Percentage of Response	Quotes
Trail Maintenance	14%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular trail maintenance and cleanups. Obviously there is an increased demand for better parking, but also the trails themselves need some attention to address erosion, overgrowth of brush, and dead hemlock trees.
Restrict Use of Park	13%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions for out-of-town visitors or fees for out-of-town visitors. Implement online reservation system that let's folks know how crowded the park is at any given time
Police / Ranger Enforcement	11%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounds performed by a ranger or police officer and reminders posted to encourage people to leave the trail and park better than they found it.

Would you participate in a town hall meeting to discuss potential solutions to alleviate the parking problems at Rainbow Lake?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.34%	194
No	45.66%	163
TOTAL		357

Summary of Answers

Summary of Answers: User Profiles

85% of respondents live on Signal Mountain.

Most respondents (57%) visit the park for 1-2 hours.

67% of respondents live zero to three miles away.

27% of respondents walk to the park, while 73% use a motor vehicle.

Summary of Answers: Perceived Problems

64% of respondents mentioned overcrowding and/or parking issues are factors that limit their use of Rainbow Lake.

27% of respondents mentioned that there are no factors that limit their use of Rainbow Lake.

Summary of Answers: Willingness to Pay / Solutions

40% of respondents would pay to park in the lot, while 60% would prefer to park free on the street.	64% of respondents said they would regularly contribute to a donation box.
33% of respondents would not be willing to pay an admission/parking fee. 33% of respondents would pay \$1. 14% of respondents would pay \$2.	57% of respondents think that on-street parking should remain unrestricted.
68% of respondents think park use should be restricted to the number of vehicles that can be accommodated in the parking lot.	The most common answers to parking/conservation issues is to add additional parking and/or impose a parking fee or permit requirements for non-residents.